

IDAHO COMMUNITY TREES

News You
Can Use

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Winter
2008

A NEWS BULLETIN FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO, THE IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS—COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM AND THE IDAHO COMMUNITY FORESTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL

*Will gypsy moths be eating our shade trees?
Find out on page 2.*

Coordinator's Column

Growing Partnerships – Celebrating Arbor Day is a Joint Effort

Though I woke up to single digit temperatures this morning, the ever increasing hours of light each day reminds me that spring is just around the proverbial corner. Many of you have already ordered, or are in the process of ordering, trees for planting in your community in April. Hopefully, you are also in the planning stages for your community's Arbor Day celebration.

With this in mind, I'm very happy to announce that this year we are partnering with the Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association (INLA) to run Idaho's Arbor Day Grant Program. Your community will be receiving the grant application materials from the INLA very soon. Since Arbor Day is all about planting and celebrating trees, this partnership is a natural. "We want to foster stronger relationships between the INLA and communities," said INLA Executive Director Ann Bates. "Our member nurseries provide quality plant materials and can help cities choose the best trees for their sites and growing conditions."

The funding for this program is provided once again by Idaho's three largest utility companies – Avista, Idaho Power and Rocky Mountain Power. Increasingly, these utilities are promoting energy conservation as a way to reduce customer costs and improve our environment, and planting trees is one very good way to do this. Indeed, Arbor Day is not only a chance to promote tree planting, but to educate residents and business owners on the value of those trees—for energy conservation, stormwater mitigation, air and water quality improvement, increased property values and more profitable businesses.

Thirty-five grants of \$300 each will be awarded this year through a lottery style drawing of submitted applications. Eligible applicants include communities, counties and tribes. Grant recipients will need to spend the grant funds at INLA member nurseries and a list will be provided with the award notice. Through their membership in the INLA, these nurseries support research and education to ensure high quality plant materials, new and improved plant cultivars, and reliable advice in selection, planting and care of



A unique, public-private partnership is helping to promote Arbor Day tree planting in Idaho. Thanks to the generosity of our three largest power companies and the cooperation of the Idaho Nursery & Landscape Association, 35 communities throughout the state will have an opportunity to win a \$300 grant to assist with their Arbor Day celebrations.

new trees, ensuring a significant positive impact on Idaho's environment.

Please be sure to thank the folks at Avista, Idaho Power, Rocky Mountain Power and INLA member nurseries for their valuable contributions and support of this program and Idaho communities. We look forward to the continued growth of these valuable partnerships into the future. (Note: Idaho officially celebrates Arbor Day on the last Friday in April, which falls on the 25th this year. For ideas to help make your celebration special, contact a community forestry assistant near you. They are listed in the masthead on page 2. Also check the Arbor Day Foundation website at arborday.org.)

— David Stephenson
Community Forestry Coordinator

Boise's Trees Make the News

"The City of Trees" has done it again. Late last year the results of a study were made public that showed Boise reaps \$1.3 million in benefits each year from its investment of \$770,784 for planting and care of its 23,262 street trees. The benefits include conserving energy, absorbing storm runoff, and reducing air pollution. The presence of trees also increase property values by some \$5.6 million. The study was conducted by the U.S. Forest Service's Center for Urban Forest Research with widespread publicity about the results. The entire report may be viewed at: www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/cufr/products/2/psw_cufr693_BOI_MFRA_web.pdf



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Field Contacts

Northern Idaho: Northwest Management, Inc., W. 21 Commerce Dr., Ste. G, Hayden, Idaho 83835. Ph. 208-772-8554 (colla@consulting-foresters.com)

Southwest Idaho: Vacant. Contact Bill Moore, SW Idaho RC&D in Meridian at 208-888-1890 x4.

Southeast Idaho: Gerry Bates, C. F. Ass't., 2445 John Adams Parkway, Idaho Falls, ID 83401. Ph. 208/522-5964 (gabates@cableone.net).

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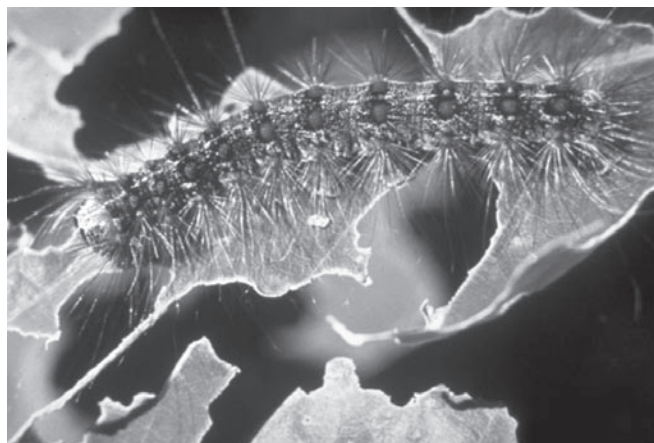
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Watch Out for The Beautiful Killer!

Last year two gypsy moths were found during routine insect trapping surveys in southern Idaho. So far, breeding populations have not plagued our state, but if this exotic insect got a foothold, it would cost millions of dollars to suppress or attempt eradicating the pest.

The gypsy moth is one of the nation's most notorious defoliators of broad-leaf trees. It has done tremendous damage to shade and forest trees in the north-eastern states. The larvae feed on such valuable species as maples, oaks, birches, alders and sometimes even conifers such as larch. The most recognizable feature of this species is its large, hairy larvae with bold blue and red spots in rows along its back. It is the work of these larvae as they feed that does the damage.

The gypsy moth gets its name from how it is able to



USDA Forest Service

This photo of a gypsy moth larva and material for the article were provided by Jeff Fidgen, entomologist for the Idaho Department of Lands. Jeff urges everyone to be on the lookout for this pest that could endanger the shade trees of Idaho.

spread. Egg masses can be laid just about anywhere by the female moths, such as on vegetation, vehicles, nursery stock, boats, lawn furniture, firewood, etc. — and can hitchhike to new areas as these items are moved around, allowing the pest to spread great distances. Moreover, the very young larvae of this pest can be carried several miles on air

currents.

Please help keep gypsy moths out of Idaho. If you find a larva that looks like the accompanying photo, please contact the Idaho Department of Lands (208-769-1525), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (208-378-5797), or the USDA Forest Service (CDA: 208-765-7344; Boise: 208-373-4223).

Champion English Oak Found in Eagle

Under the spread-ing English oak? Yes, indeed! Last year Eagle City Forester Julie Lafferty discovered a champion oak growing alone on a small knoll right off Eagle Road. Ron Mahoney from the University of Idaho's Forestry Extension confirmed it as the largest in the state. Julie, along with J. Harrington from the Idaho Department of Lands, did the measurements. Idaho's grand champ has a 46-inch diameter trunk and is 80 feet tall with a 21-foot crown spread. Eagle also has the



Julie Lafferty

Idaho's champion English oak graces a hillside in Eagle. As we go to press, we have learned that an even larger member of the species has been located in Eagle. When officially measured it may even become the national champion!

honor of claiming the state champion sycamore tree.

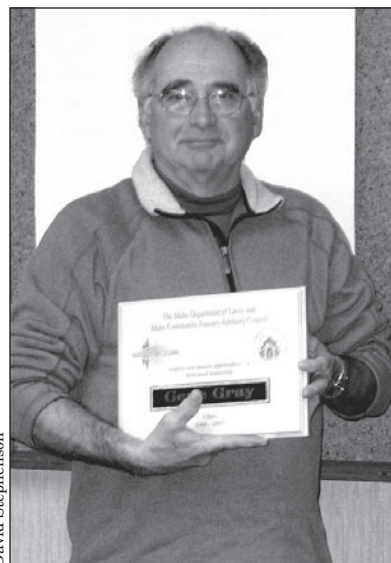
Do you know of a huge tree that might qualify? You can compare yours with the current state champions by visiting www.cnr.uidaho.edu/extforest/BTList.htm.

If your tree beats the reigning champion, contact your city forester or a community forestry assistant listed in the masthead. Take a look. There could be a champion right in your own town.

2008 CTE Grants Awarded

The Idaho Transportation Department has again partnered with the Idaho Department of Lands Community Forestry Program to make available Community Transportation Enhancement Grants. This year, \$140,000 was awarded to ten cities on a competitive basis, with matching funds bringing the total value of the projects to \$287,142. All projects will help communities enhance aesthetics and enjoy the practical benefits of trees planted along streets, roads and bikeways. This year's grant recipients are also all Tree City USA award winning communities:

Coeur d'Alene	\$6,500
Eagle	\$10,063
Idaho Falls	\$13,700
Ketchum	\$8,705
Moscow	\$15,470
Nampa	\$12,941
Pocatello	\$14,496
Post Falls	\$15,748
Sugar City	\$21,915
Ucon	\$20,462



Gene Gray, outgoing chair of the Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council, was honored for his service at the council's semi-annual meeting in Boise. Gene is a former U.S. Marine, a wildlife biologist, and is active in tree board activities, particularly in his home town of Payette, Idaho. The council's incoming chair is Doug Russell. Doug

is a principal of The Land Group, Inc. and represents the Idaho/Montana Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architecture on the council. The varied backgrounds of these members typify the diversity sought in advising the Idaho Department of Lands on issues and plans related to community forestry. For more information about the council, please visit: www.idl.idaho.gov/bureau/community_forestry/cf_council/index.htm.

Calendar – Spring 2008

February 23

Tree Biology, Tree and Soil Relationships, Water Management. Orem, Utah. (More information at http://www.utahurbanforest.org/events/events_spring_arbapp.htm, or call Scott Bunker at (801) 852-6920)

Feb 24–29

Municipal Forester Institute. New Braunfels, TX. (Contact the Society of Municipal Arborists at (706) 769-7412 or download registration brochure at www.urban-forestry.com)

March 6-7

Tree Care & Arborist Training Workshop. Twin Falls, ID. (Contact College of Southern Idaho Community Education at 208-732-6442)

March 8

Electrical Hazards Training Workshop. Spokane, WA. (Contact Tree Care Industry Association at 1(800) 733-2622, or visit online at www.tcia.org and click on Safety & Education; EHAP)

March 15

Tree Nutrition and Fertilization, Diagnosis and Plant Disorders, Plant Health Care. Orem, Utah. (Information at www.utahurbanforest.org/events/events_spring_arbapp.htm or phone Scott Bunker at (801) 852-6920)

April 9

Pruning – Safety, Tree Assessment and Risk Management, Trees and Construction, Climbing and Working in Trees. Provo, Utah. (For information, see above.)

April 25

ARBOR DAY!

May 28 – 30

Nature and the Network - Building a New Framework for People and Nature to Work Together. Caribe Royale Hotel, Orlando, Florida. (For information visit: <http://www.americanforests.org/conference>)

Upcoming Certified Arborist (CA), Municipal Arborist (MA), Utility Arborist (UA), and Certified Tree Worker (CTW) written Exams

March 1—Walla Walla, WA – morning exam² (CA, UA)

April 19—Spokane, WA – afternoon exam² (CA, UA)

May 15—Orem, UT – evening exam¹ (CA)

June 7—Boise – morning exam² (CA, UA, CTW)

June 7—Twin Falls – morning exam² (CA, UA)

June 7—Lewiston² (CA, UA)

September 27—Pocatello – morning exam² (CA, UA)

¹For information or to register, contact: Utah Chapter, International Society of Arboriculture at (801) 446-8229 or email: Lisa_UCFC@yahoo.com.

²For information or to register, contact: Pacific Northwest Chapter, International Society of Arboriculture at 503/874-8263 or 217-355-9411 or email: info@pnwisa.org.



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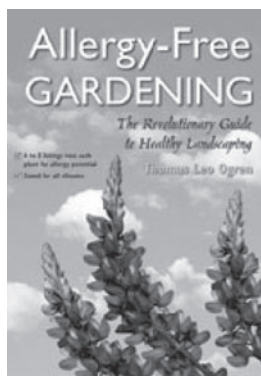
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Tree tip

Consider Allergies When You Plant



Ogren's books have become popular guides on what to plant, especially near homes with people who are allergic to pollen.

Author Tom Ogren was a speaker at the Idaho Horticulture Expo in January and gave tree planters a lot to think about. Ogren says allergy problems in our population have increased from 2% in the 1950's to 38% today and with asthma now the most common childhood ailment. Much of the problem may be our tree preference and planting habits. In recent decades the trend has been to plant male trees to eliminate fruit and maintenance chores. But is it worth it?

When you plant, consider trees with large, heavy pollen (that stays close by) and female plants or trees with low pollen ratings on the unique OPALS™ scale of 1-10 (Ogren Plant Allergy Scale). Some landscape plants can actually *trap* pollen and help clean the air. Female yew plants are a good example.

High Pollen Production

Male junipers (10)
Male ash trees (9-10)
Male red maples (8-9)

Low Pollen Production

Female junipers (1)
Female ash trees (1)
Female red maples (1)